

EXHIBIT O

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

COUNTY OF WAKE

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

CASE NO. 17-CVS-7995

JORDON HARGROVE,

Plaintiff,

v.

GRUBB MANAGEMENT, INC.;
GRUBB FUND MANAGEMENT, LLC;
GRUBB RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND III, LLC; and
GLENWOOD RALEIGH
APARTMENTS, LLC d/b/a STERLING
GLENWOOD APARTMENTS,

Defendants.

Order

This matter, coming on to be heard and being heard during the March 20, 2018 civil session of Wake County Superior Court by the Honorable Judge A. Graham Shirley, II, sitting as a specially-designated judge pursuant to North Carolina General Rule of Practice 2.1, on Plaintiff Jordan Hargrove's Motion for Partial Judgment on the Pleadings against Defendant Glenwood Raleigh Apartments, LLC d/b/a Sterling Glenwood Apartments ("Plaintiff's Motion") and on Defendants' Grubb Management, Inc., Grubb Fund Management, LLC, Grubb Residential Development Fund III, LLC, and Glenwood Raleigh Apartments, LLC d/b/a Sterling Glenwood Apartments's Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings ("Defendants' Motion").

Plaintiff was represented by Edward Maginnis of Maginnis Law, PLLC and Scott C. Harris of Whitfield, Bryson & Mason, LLP and Defendants were represented by Jonathan R. Reich of Womble Bond Dickinson (US), LLP.

After having reviewed the pleadings (and any attachments thereto), the Court's file, the motions submitted, and the briefs of the parties, and having taken into account the arguments of counsel, the Court finds that Plaintiff's Motion and Defendants' Motion present only a question of law. The Court finds that North Carolina General Statute §42-46(e), (f), (g) and (h) are unambiguous; the only fees that can be claimed by a landlord for filing a complaint for summary ejectment and/or money owed are set forth in §42-46.

By imposing and then collecting a fee of \$191 from Mr. Hargrove for reimbursement of the filing fees, attorney fees, and other fees reflected in N.C.G.S. §7A-305(a), Sterling violated N.C.G.S. §42-46. The Court further finds that attorney's fees can only be charged (or subsequently

awarded) on a note or evidence of indebtedness when an attorney is employed to actually collect on the evidence of indebtedness. Sterling could not claim an attorney's fee under N.C.G.S. §6-21.2 because it only sought possession by summary ejectment, and did not seek to collect any sums for unpaid rent. The Court also concludes that by imposing, and then collecting \$191 from Mr. Hargrove, Sterling violated N.C.G.S. §75-54.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that Plaintiff's Motion against Defendant Glenwood Raleigh Apartments, LLC d/b/a Sterling Glenwood Apartments is granted in its entirety. Plaintiff is entitled to partial judgment on the pleadings with regard to Sterling's liability under N.C.G.S. §42-46 and partial judgment on the pleadings on his claim under the North Carolina Debt Collection Act, N.C.G.S. §75-50 *et seq.* in that Sterling violated N.C.G.S. §75-54 on at least one occasion. Defendants' Motion is denied in its entirety.

This the [✓]23 day of March, 2018.


THE HONORABLE A. GRAHAM SHIRLEY, II
PRESIDING SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE